

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEACE (I4P) WHERE TO FROM HERE?

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Aim of Presentation

The presenter suggests that South Africa did not adequately follow through on its nation-building initiatives post 1994 and is thus not adequately equipped for the rising political tension and other challenges facing the country. I4P could be part of the answer in this regard and it will serve South Africa well to look into international good practice as well as its own past and current peace-building strategies to plan for the future.

South African Status Quo

- Build-up of political tension – higher conflict potential
 - Upcoming national elections in 2019
 - Ongoing local government service delivery protests
 - Intra-party dynamics (ANC, DA, EFF)
 - Economic downturn
 - Restive civil society (student protests etc.)
 - Racial tension
 - Political populism

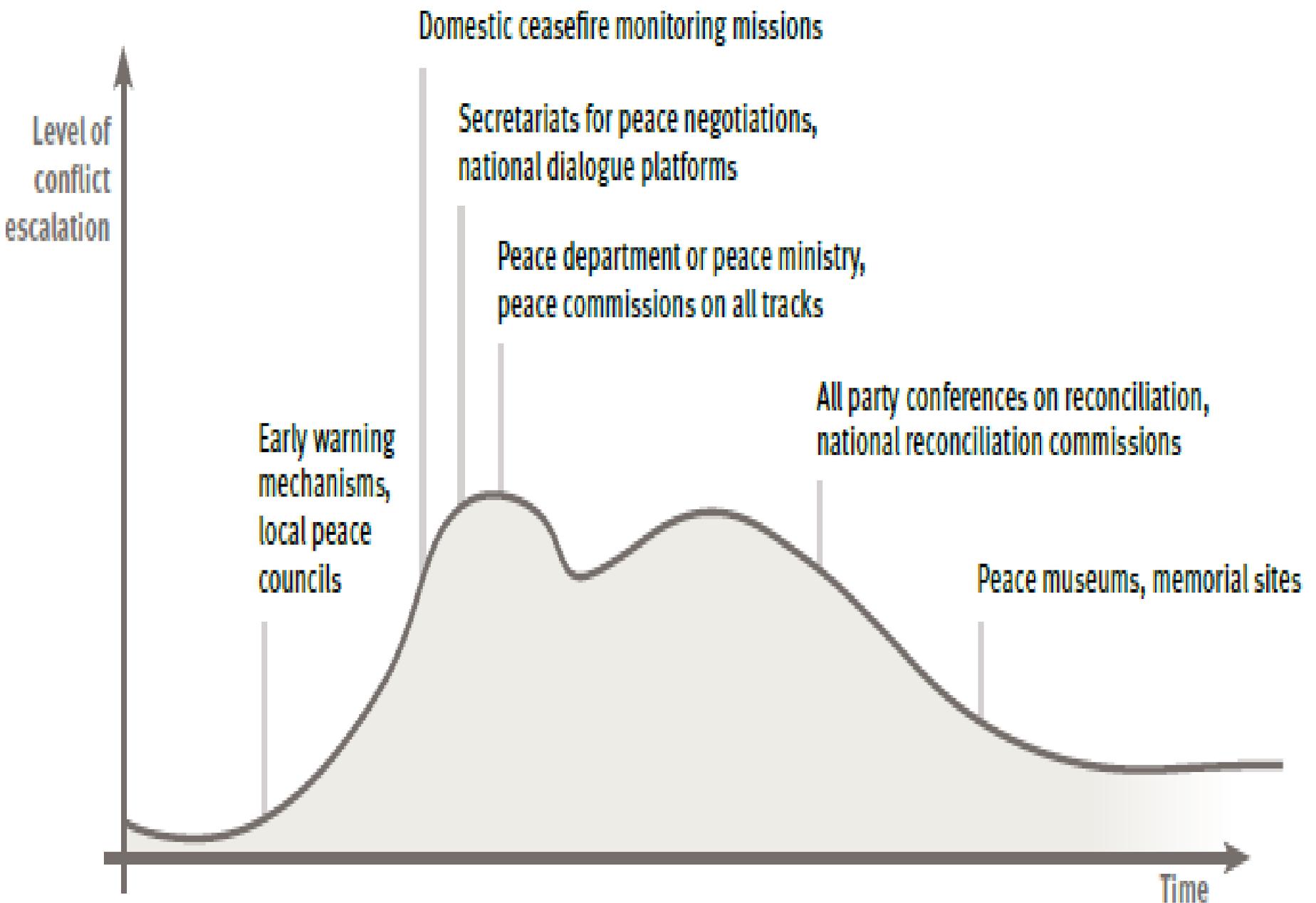
SA Conflict Transformation Process

- 1990's negotiated settlement
- Constitution, institutions, legislation
- Unfinished business? What makes us special?
- Nation-building – "...a process of collective identity formation with a view to legitimizing public power...". (Charlesworth in Bogdandy, Hausler, Hanschmann & Uitz, 2005) – aimed at establishing "collective meaning".
- The role of dialogue in the above process:
 - Ongoing calls for national dialogue (*We need a new CODESA*)
 - Renegotiating the Peace? (Constitution)
 - Changing the narrative
 - National Foundation Dialogue Initiative (NFDI)
 - Civil society processes

The Possible Role Of Infrastructure For Peace (I4P)?

- The United Nations (UN) defines I4P as “a dynamic network of interdependent structures, mechanisms, resources, values and skills, which, through dialogue and consultation, contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a society” (Ryan. 2012)
- “Peace infrastructures consist of diverse domestic, inter-connected forms of engagement between conflict parties and other stakeholders. Their organisational elements can be established at all stages of peace and dialogue processes, at all levels of society, and with varying degrees of inclusion.” (Hopp-Nishanka, 2012)
- Van Tongeren (2011) states that the idea of peace infrastructure is to develop mechanisms for cooperation among stakeholders, including the government, by promoting co-operative problem-solving and institutionalising response mechanisms to (violent) conflict.

	Ghana	Kyrgyzstan	Lesotho	Nepal
Type	Institution Mechanism	Mechanism Institution	Mechanism	Institution
Format	Councils, Networks 	Insider Mediation	Insider Mediation	Ministry Local Committees
Level	National Regional Local	Regional Partly National Local	National	National Local 
Key Actors	Governmental CSO Representatives Religious and Traditional Leaders/Networks 	Government Bureau NGO representatives Civil Society	Civil Society Church Leaders	Government Actors CSO Representatives Party Delegates
Target group	Religious, Social and Political Communities Conflict Stakeholders	Ethnic communities Political parties Civil Society	Government Parties Political leaders	Parties Ethnic, Caste and other Community Members
Mandate	Formal Sometimes informal	Informal	Informal Sometimes formal	Formal 
Primary Functions	Mitigation of Tensions Coordination Preparation of Elections Mediation	Mitigation of Tensions Arbitration Reconciliation 	Preparation of Elections Consensus- building Mitigation of Tensions	Local Problem Solving Legitimizing Local Governance
Inclusivity	High	Medium	Low	Medium
Effectiveness/ Sustainability	Very High 	Medium/Low	Medium	Low/Medium



Ghana

Ghana National Peace Council Act/ 2011

National Peace Council

A body made up of 13 members representing different religious, social and political groups. Tasked with strengthening capacities for conflict prevention, management, resolution and sustainable peace, facilitating the amicable resolution of conflict through mediation, and coordinating and supervising the work of the regional and district peace councils.

Peacebuilding Support Unit

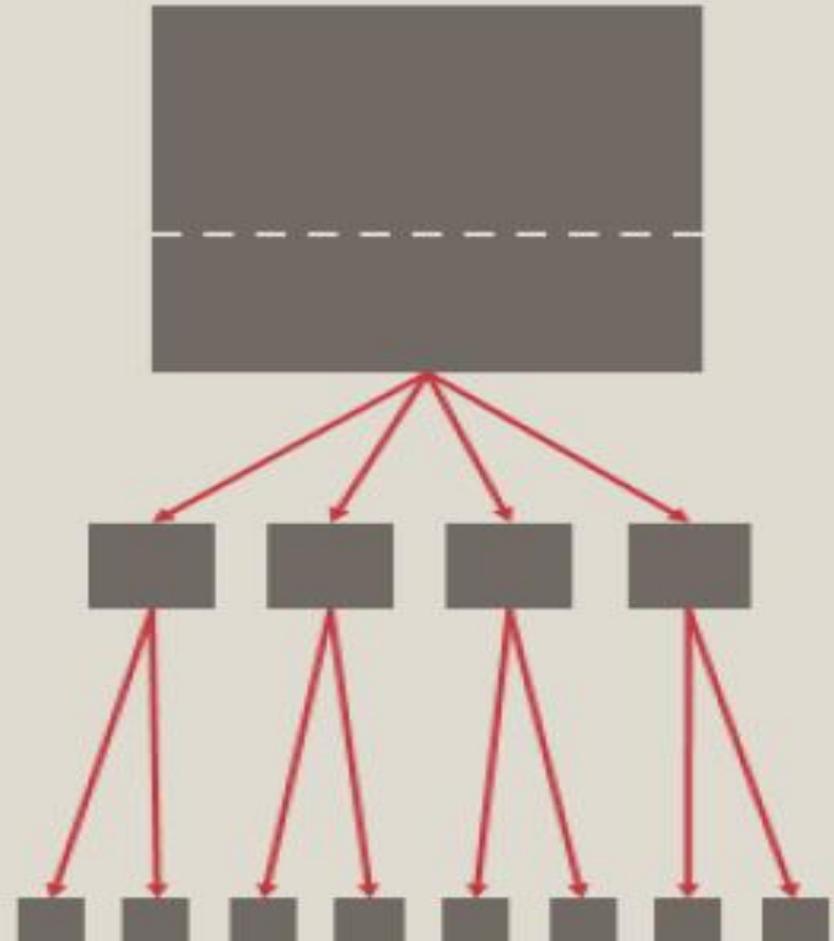
Located within Ministry of the Interior; responsible for coordinating the collaboration between peace councils and government agencies.

Regional Peace Councils

Active in all 10 of Ghana's regions and replicates the National Peace Council on the regional level. Representatives include influential individuals representing different religious, social and political groups of the region. Tasked with engaging with conflict stakeholders to prevent and resolve conflict.

District Peace Councils

Local councils composed of influential individuals from the district; replicates the National Peace Council and the regional peace councils. Tasked with engaging with conflict stakeholders to prevent and resolve conflict. Not yet operational in all of Ghana's districts.



National Peace Accord/Secretariat

- National Peace Accord (NPA) formed in 1991
- 26 Political parties and organizations participating
- Active roles of private sector, civil society and FBOs
- Capacitating civil society to “absorb energy” of transition
- Results:
 - National Peace Secretariat
 - 11 Regional peace committees
 - 200 local peace committees
 - 15 000 peace monitors
 - Training in conflict management
 - Assisting IEC and foreign observer missions
 - Mixed results and outcomes

Free State Centre for Citizenship Education and Conflict Resolution (CCECR)

- Unique provincial initiative for conflict transformation
- Political compromise among political parties
- Facilitated and driven by academics and civil society
- Act 11/1996 of the Free State Provincial Legislature
- Objectives of the Centre:
 - Promote tolerance/respect for language, culture and religious diversity;
 - Develop/provide education/training/information/advice on democracy and human rights;
 - Address issues of discrimination/minority protection;
 - Provide conflict resolution/mediation dealing with conflict arising from discrimination, minority protection and political transformation; and
 - Contribute to formation of policies/legislation enhancing democracy and human rights.

Free State Centre for Citizenship Education and Conflict Resolution (CCECR)

- Funding provided by FSPL and Flemish Government
- Reporting to Free State Provincial Legislature
- Administered by the Office of the Premier FSPG
- Operational from 1998 – 2003
- Act 11/1996 repealed in 2005
- Track record of the Centre:
 - Training of government officials (IDRS – USAID)
 - Training of local government officials/academic staff
 - Mediation at local government level
 - Development of human rights/citizenship curriculum (SDA)
 - Investigation of complaints
- Demise due to funding issues , political control, government priorities

Way Forward (i)

- Investigate existing initiatives (NFDI and others)
- National Development Plan (NDP) Chapter 14 - Nation building and social cohesion
- Human Rights Commission
 - Act 54/1994 in terms of Sec 184(1) of Act 108/1996
 - Sec 8 – resolve disputes or rectify acts/commissions resulting in violation of fundamental rights thorough mediation, conciliation or negotiation.
- Public Protector
 - Act 23/1994 in terms of Sec 182(1) of Act 108/1996
 - Sec 6(4)(b)(iii) – mediation, conciliation, negotiation
- Gender Commission
 - Act 39/1996 in terms of Sec 187(1) of Act 108/1996
 - Sec 11(1)(e) - mediation, conciliation, negotiation

Way Forward

- Court Annexed mediation – ADR in the legal system
- Academic institutions, think tanks (CCR; ACCORD; CMA; ISS; IJR)
- Civil society and private service providers.
- (West) African and International initiatives
- UAE – creation of Ministry of Tolerance to...” promote tolerance as a fundamental value in UAE society.”

Thank You
Dankie

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